



## San Diego Unified School District

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JUL 25 2007

### Office of General Counsel

Jose A. Gonzales  
Deputy General Counsel

July 24, 2007

Presiding Judge  
San Diego County Superior Court  
330 W. Broadway  
San Diego, California 92101-3830

Re: Grand Jury Report: "School Bus Emissions—You Take My Breath Away"

Dear Honorable Presiding Judge:

This letter is submitted pursuant to Penal Code section 933 et seq. in response to the above-referenced May 9, 2007 San Diego County Grand Jury report findings and to recommendation 07-18.

The San Diego Unified School District, "District", agrees with each of the findings in the above-referenced report.

As to recommendation 07-18, the District has taken the following actions to implement the recommendation, which is "to budget a portion of [bond] funds for diesel school bus replacement or retrofit."

1. Although there have been no bond issue funds available – grant funds from both the "Clean Cities" and "Clean Air for Kids" EPA monies have been used to retrofit diesel buses with particulate traps.
2. Currently SDUSD owns 502 diesel school buses, the oldest of which are 1997 models.
3. 348 of the current buses have been retrofitted with particulate traps for reducing NOx in the air.
4. There are 119 buses without traps – 99 of which will have a completed retrofit by August 2007.

5. 25 of SDUSD buses are 2007 models with engines built without the need for traps based on the particulate filter within.
6. All SDUSD buses are fueled with low-sulfur/no-sulfur "green diesel"
7. To date \$2,872,500 has been awarded to SDUSD (grant money only) to retrofit with particulate traps
8. The district's most recent award from the APCD of \$33,950 as well as a \$750K grant from the EPA will complete the district's retrofit.
9. The district has an on-going place holder within the district's budget for bus replacement

We are available to respond to additional questions, and to assist the court and the grand jury, on these issues.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "JAG", with a long horizontal line extending to the left.

Jose A. Gonzales

JAG:ae

Grand jury 071907